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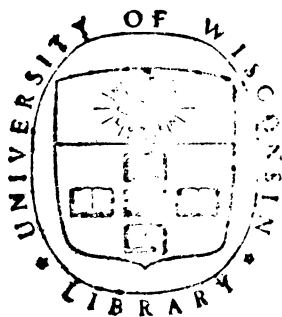
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Wisconsin State Agricultural Society
Annual Report. 1856.

Annual Report of the Executive Committee.
1857-1858.

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AGRICULTURAL
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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

STATE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY,

OF THE

STATE OF WISCONSIN.

FOR THE YEAR 1856.

MADISON:

ATWOOD & RUBLEE, STATE PRINTERS.
1857.

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AMERICAN HISTORY

1875

STATE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

1875

REPORT OF THE SOCIETY

FOR THE YEAR 1875

PRINTED BY THE SOCIETY

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

STATE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY,

OF THE

STATE OF WISCONSIN.

FOR THE YEAR 1856.

MADISON:

ATWOOD & RUBLEE, STATE PRINTERS.
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REPORT.

To HIS EXCELLENCY, COLES BASHFORD,

Governor of the State of Wisconsin.

SIR:—In compliance with the requirement of law, the Executive Committee of the State Agricultural Society, would respectfully

REPORT:

That during the past year the Society has been actively engaged in discharging the various duties devolving upon it.

As a whole, the year of 1856 cannot be pronounced an unprosperous one, agriculturally, for the State; although in some respects decidedly unfavorable. In many districts, the earlier part of the season was exceedingly dry, and, taken in connection with the common custom, among many of our farmers, of plowing very shallow, and often emitting even to plow at all, in putting in wheat, eventuated in materially diminishing that important crop. The breadth of land sowed to wheat in the State, was undoubtedly sufficient, if the tillage had been deep, and appropriate to a dry season, to have produced a crop of fifteen millions (15,000,000) of bushels, but under the unfavorable circumstances before mentioned, it probably did not exceed ten millions.

The other cereal, and also, the root and vegetable crops, were a good deal diminished, by the same combination of causes. The society will probably offer increased premiums hereafter, on farm and field crops, with the hope of inducing improvement in these important fundamental matters. We are of the opinion, that a proper awakening on this subject, would add millions annually to the value of our agricultural product.

The Society has obtained from the Patent Office, and other sources, during the year, considerable quantities of rare and valuable seeds, and the most ample pains have been taken to distribute them into the hands of good cultivators, throughout the State. Owing to the dryness of the season, as much success was not attained in their cultivation, as might otherwise have been; still numbers report very favorably, especially on some new varieties of turnip, and other vegetables. What has already been done in this direction, shows conclusively, that the distribution of seeds will become a prominent feature of usefulness with the Society.

In view of this fact, we have considerably enlarged our basis of action in this respect, the present year, by arranging to invest several hundred dollars, in various useful seeds, cuttings, &c., for a still more extensive distribution. We are the more prompted to this course from an increased consciousness of the great importance of such early and wide distribution, in a new State, of all those elemental germs of the right kinds, not only for field crops, but for the growth of forests upon our open, timberless lands, and grasses of more approved and valuable kinds upon our wide expanse of high and low lands.

It is confidently believed that the judicious distribution of a few hundred dollars annually in this way will speedily add as many thousands to the aggregate and individual wealth of the State. As an illustration, let us suppose our wheat crop improved ten per cent. in quantity and value by the introduction of better and more productive seed. The immediate result is the addition of millions to our productive wealth.

The Sixth Annual Fair of the Society was held on the Cold Spring Race Course, near the city of Milwaukee, on the 8th, 9th, and 10th days of October. Everything was done, on the part of the officers of the Society, that could well be, under the circumstances, to render the exhibition one of interest and usefulness to the great producing classes of the State; and, as was confidently expected, the entries of animals and articles was larger, as well as the attendance of the people much larger than ever before, from all parts of the State penetrated by railroads. Not probably less

than 20,000 people visited the grounds during the Fair ; and while, in all such cases of great popular gatherings of the masses, there was, as must inevitably be, more or less cause of dissatisfaction and complaint, still, the committee flatter themselves with the belief that as a whole it was a highly creditable display, both to the State and Society, and a school where those who attended with the right motives, profited more than it cost.

It has become obvious beyond dispute, that these agricultural and mechanical exhibitions are, and will continue to be, the great popular holidays of the people of our practical, progressive country ; hence, it becomes an important question as to the policy that their interests demand, and also what aids they may properly expect from legislators and railroad companies.

From the former, it is too obvious to need argument, that they may properly expect every aid and facility, that will prove profitable and useful to the great masses, whose interests they represent.

From the latter, to wit: Railroad companies, they have a right to expect every accommodation that can, in justice on the part of the companies, be granted them. First, because Railroad companies, in the first instance, want and constantly want, a multitude of favors of the people individually, and legislatively ; and secondly, because no one party, or interest in the State, is more benefited by accelerated advancement in agricultural wealth, and increased products, than Railroad companies, who must needs be the carriers of all these products to market. We say this much on the subject, as bearing upon the policy pursued by our Railroad companies last season, of charging half fare upon animals and articles transported to, and from the Fair ; a policy which has been found in Ohio, and other States, to be most disastrous to all such agricultural gatherings, and in the end to be equally so upon the companies themselves, until it has been almost uniformly abandoned. It being proved to a demonstration, that people, ordinarily, do not care enough about exhibiting their articles at fairs, merely as a curiosity, to warrant the payment of any considerable sum for freight. It has also been equally well proved, that companies adopting the liberal policy, of carrying animals and articles

free, and people at half price, and carrying it out to the *letter*, not only in fact, but in an accommodating spirit, have invariably made the most money. That our late fair was greatly diminished in numbers in attendance and interest, on account of the above new regulation cannot be doubted. It is confidently hoped and expected however, by the progressive friends of agriculture, that a more liberal policy will be inaugurated for next season; one that will remove all just grounds of complaint, among all parties.

The committee would respectfully suggest, whether the time has not arrived when some of the preliminary steps might properly be taken for the establishing and endowing of an Agricultural School commensurate with the present and prospective wants of our nobly developing State. Is it meet that a State whose almost entire interest is, and ever must be, Agriculture, should endow with almost unlimited funds schools of polite literature, law and medicine, to the entire exclusion of any provision whatever for instruction in theoretic and practical Agriculture? Should not the soil, that supports everything, be in turn supported and saved from deterioration by an early and effectual implanting of sound, scientific information among its numerous occupants and cultivators?

It strikes us that the next five years ought to develop such an institution in full operation, with all needful appendages for teaching in the most thorough manner, not only theoretical, but practical Agriculture, upon scientific and abiding principles. Such an institution in our midst, well established and well managed, and turning out its 500 or 1,000 thoroughly educated young farmers annually, would tell beyond calculation upon the eventual destiny of our State and the West. Our sister States are leading us in these matters. Shall we not follow them?

Some adequate provision of law for collecting annual statistics of our products and progress, would probably be a source of but little expense, and would, beyond all doubt, be a source of great practical utility; offering as it would a constant index of our interests, and their true direction.

Some adequate provision of law for the protection of sheep from

dogs and wolves, seems especially necessary, inasmuch as wool-growing bids fair to become an important interest in the State. The fear of damage from these causes, undoubtedly deters many who otherwise would embark in the business, thereby proving a greater damage even than the actual destruction arising from their prowlings.

Owing mainly to the embarrassed condition of the State treasury, last year, no application was made, on the part of the Society, for legislative provisions to publish a volume of their transactions, notwithstanding they were already two years behind.

The Executive Committee now deem it important that it should be no longer deferred, and would respectfully request that proper provisions be made for the publication of a volume, embracing the year of 1854-5-6; and that an edition sufficiently large be ordered, to admit of the distribution of at least 1,000 copies, to County Societies. It is believed that such an expenditure judiciously made, will be both creditable and useful to the State.

In the opinion of the Executive Committee, it will be desirable to offer increased, rather than diminished premiums, for the production of animals of superior merit; especially as no other seem worthy of encouragement, or propagation in this northern latitude. If the matter of winter keeping with us was less of an item, the eventual value of an animal, might perhaps be a matter of mere indifference; but situated as we are, it becomes no secondary matter, whether a horse at maturity is worth one or two hundred dollars; a cow \$15 or \$50, or a sheep \$1 50 instead of \$5 00. The higher priced animals can be raised at a profit, almost anywhere, even in Vermont. The lower priced, nowhere, when extra winter keeping is required.

Let us strive, by a timely and judicious policy, to embark our thousands of young, rising farmers in a paying rather than a losing business in this department of agriculture.

Many of the animals exhibited at the late Fair were such as would do credit to any country or people.

The display of mechanical ingenuity was ample and creditable. Many of the articles exhibited, of Wisconsin manufacture, were

not in any respect behind the products of the best establishments of the East. These, by the way, are another class of interests worthy of all reasonable patronage and encouragement—to the end that they may soon be able to supply our great and growing wants here at our own door, and with greater economy than can ever be done from abroad.

The exhibition of the financial affairs of the Society hereunto attached, shows a gratifying increase in the receipts over any previous year, and demonstrated conclusively, that a well managed Society can be sustained among our citizens, without any doubts of its ability to pay its own incidental expenses, without legislative aid except for premiums. Whether the amount now appropriated, is as large a sum as it is judicious to distribute as premiums is a question that the executive committee are willing to leave to the wisdom of the legislature. But any diminution of it would in our opinion, be bad policy, and a retrograde step, in the aids to agricultural improvement and progress.

All which is respectfully submitted.

By order of the Executive Committee of the Wisconsin State Agricultural Society.

**STATEMENT OF THE FISCAL AFFAIRS OF THE WISCONSIN
STATE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY, FOR THE YEAR 1856.**

To Balance on hand, Dec. 31, 1855,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$1,099 66
From Annual and Life Members,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	791 00
State Appropriation,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,000 00
Subscription of the City of Milwaukee, and use of Grounds,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	571 00
Receipts at State Fair, independent of Membership Tickets,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,851 47
Interest,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	66 50
									<hr/>
									\$8,379 63

EXPENDITURES.

Paid in Premiums and Diplomas,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$2,355 00
For the purchase of Seeds, &c.,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	500 00
Salary of Secretary,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,000 00
Office Rent and Expenses,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	221 98
Express Charges, and Postage on Books, Seeds, &c., received and distributed,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	51 85
To Cost of Office Safe,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	227 50
To divers Miscellaneous Bills of purchase and expenditure at the State Fair, and during the year,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,804 68
To Estimated Amount of outstanding unpaid Premiums and Accounts,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	250 00
Cash to balance Accounts,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	968 62
									<hr/>
									\$8,379 63

Bills and vouchers for all the above items are on file in this office, and subject to your order.

GEORGE O. TIFFANY, Sec'y.

**STATE AGRICULTURAL ROOMS, }
Madison, Jan. 15, 1857. }**

ANNUAL REPORT

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

OF THE

WISCONSIN STATE AGRICULTURAL
SOCIETY,

FOR THE YEAR 1857.

MADISON
ATWOOD & RUBLEE, PRINTERS.
1858.

ANNUAL REPORT

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

OF THE

WISCONSIN STATE AGRICULTURAL

SOCIETY

FOR THE YEAR 1907

ATWOOD & HUNTER, PRINTERS
MADISON

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

OF THE

**WISCONSIN STATE AGRICULTURAL
SOCIETY,**

FOR THE YEAR 1857.

**MADISON
ATWOOD & RUBLEE, PRINTERS.
1857.**

THE JOURNAL

OF THE

AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

PUBLISHED WEEKLY

CHICAGO, ILL., U.S.A.

1917

1917

REPORT

OF THE

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR 1857.

TO HIS EXCELLENCY ALEXANDER W. RANDALL, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF WISCONSIN:

SIR:—In compliance with the requirements of law, the Executive Committee of the State Agricultural Society would respectfully REPORT,—That during the past year of 1857, the State Agricultural Society has, through its proper channels of action, been pursuing its accustomed course, and discharging to the best of its ability and means, its various duties and responsibilities.

As hitherto, the field of useful labor that has seemed to present itself for the consideration and action of the Society, has been in no degree diminished; but, from year to year, seems to widen and deepen in its demands. In view of these facts, the Society has aimed to do more than merely to provide for and hold an Annual Fair. Ample pains have been taken, through agricultural Journals and otherwise, to arouse and elevate the ambition and spirit of all classes, to adopt more system and care in what they do, to cultivate better, to be more careful in the selection of seed; and for the purpose of aiding in this highly important work on the part of the Society, seeds and cuttings, particularly the former, have been purchased and distributed to a large extent, and generally of very choice descriptions; all in all, probably not less than twenty thousand packages, during the past year. That some of them have fallen upon good

ground, and will spring up and bear an hundred fold of highly improved and useful products, the Society already has abundant assurance. The leading article of distribution—the Chinese Sugar Cane—was distributed from our rooms to the extent of nearly ten thousand packages, into every part of the State. We learn that it has been very generally planted, and in the great majority of cases, grown to the entire satisfaction of the cultivators, except in the matter of ripening its seed, in which it has generally failed, although obviously and wholly owing to the extraordinary backwardness of the season. Some few experimentalists have demonstrated, however, that the seed might have been ripened generally, even the past season, by simply planting that portion intended for seed more open to the sun, and suckering it out to but few stalks in a hill. Several who pursued this course inform us that they fully ripened their seed. But the rich saccharine properties of the cane have been fully demonstrated to every one who has grown a hill of it the past season. The fact of its having been so widely distributed and advertised in this manner, to every neighborhood, will undoubtedly lead to its being extensively and profitably cultivated the present season. In fact, we doubt not, but that the extra impetus given to this subject alone, through the aid of this Society, will eventuate in more advantage to the State than the Society has ever yet been expense to it, since its organization.

Not wishing to confine its labors wholly to the more masculine and substantial interests, to the neglect of the more refining and tasteful, the Society has, among other things, distributed some thousands of packages of flower seeds, mainly of new and choice varieties; that they have proved a profitable and cheap embellishment to many a wayside cottage and happy home, can hardly be doubted.

In the way of cuttings, considerable quantities of the German Osier Willow have been distributed, not so much from the Society's having any extraordinary faith in its probable profitable cultivation in our State, as in obedience to a strong desire on the part of many to experiment in its cultivation. Its cultivation, both for home use and exportation to eastern cities, may prove important as our State gets older.

Prompted by a desire to improve still further, if possible, in the cultivation of our great staple, wheat, by the introduction of the best possible kinds of seed, the Society despatched an experienced and sagacious practical farmer, (Hon. David Williams, of Walworth county), to Canada, during their wheat harvest, with instructions to examine their different kinds and qualities of wheat, grown upon their various soils and under various circumstances; and to report his views upon the advisability of its introduction, as seed, among our farmers. The gentleman performed his mission in a highly satisfactory manner, and duly reported its results, which have been spread before the people; and will undoubtedly lead to the obtainment of new and valuable seed.

Early and ample pains were taken, on the part of the Society, for the holding of its Annual Fair; and in view of the extensive hotel accommodations, convenient fair grounds, railroad approaches, and promising public spirit of the citizens of Janesville; that place was settled upon for the purpose. In anticipation of a large turn out, not only among our own people, but also from the neighboring State of Illinois, (unto whom we wished to make a creditable show), very ample, and somewhat expensive, preparations were made for the occasion; providing not only for the show of the more substantial features of agricultural production, but also for the more attractive novelties sometimes employed to embellish such occasions.

As was anticipated, the occasion and the outlay met with a fair and full response on the part of the people, both exhibitors and spectators. The entries were considerably larger than at any previous fair, and embraced many animals, articles, and products that are not surpassed in quality in the United States. Every department of the fair, Animal, Agricultural, Horticultural, Floral, Mechanical and Miscellaneous, was well filled, and, altogether, displayed a striking evidence of the progress of our young State. How much of this progress and improvement is attributable to the teachings and effects of the State and county fairs, we will leave for the observing and philosopher to determine.

Owing to the occurrence of a severe autumnal storm during the last two, and principal days of the fair, the attendance of the people, as well as the receipts, were very materially diminished; and but for the State appropriation to fall back upon, the Society, notwithstanding all the careful foresight in its power, would have been, in consequence of the aforesaid misadventure, far behind, pecuniarily, and obliged to have left scores of *little bills* unpaid, until time and good luck afforded them the means. All in all, the fair was a decided success over any of its predecessors, notwithstanding the uncongenial weather; and notwithstanding a very illiberal and unaccommodating spirit manifested by one of the principal railroads of the State, to wit: the La Crosse and Milwaukee. Their utter refusal to carry stock and articles for exhibition, short of *full fare price, and general disposition to be enabling*, so disgusted the great northeastern and central counties, that they were scarcely represented at the fair. It is the sincere hope of your humble servants, that this pampered and spoiled child of misplaced State liberality, will, when its corruption fund emissaries come around the capital the present winter, asking for new favors, be met with the same spirit with which they met the poor farmers who have mortgaged their farms to build, not only their their road, but fine palaces, also, for the gentlemen who have (mis)managed it. Of all companies in the State, they were the last who should thus have given the cold shoulder to the farmers of the State.

But notwithstanding the foregoing drawbacks, the society has been able to close up its pecuniary affairs for the past year in a creditable and satisfactory manner to all concerned, and with a small balance in the treasury, as will be seen by reference to the financial report of the Secretary, at the close of this communication. With a full belief, on their part, that the Society is now placed upon a firm foundation, and more fully grounded in the hearts and approving good will of the masses of the people, than ever before. The undersigned would commend its various interest to your kind care and consideration; and they do so with a full faith that the cause of agriculture, nor agricultural associations, will not be likely to retrograde during your administration.

But, with us, we feel assured that you will duly appreciate the fact that the great principle and purpose underlying all these associations, public displays, and premium lists, is to prove to labor that of its own production, there is abundant material to please the fancy and satisfy ambition; and by bringing them together, combined and arranged, to afford a noble opportunity for study to the student, and a splendid and profitable holiday to the idle. For this reason the Society seeks to please all, for it is profitable for all to come. No person can leave an agricultural exhibition as ignorant as he came. Its annual shows give to all an opportunity to study the lesson of labor, which, perhaps, but one has properly illustrated.

To inaugurate annually a great industrial gathering, where the knowledge of one may be spread over the minds of many—a gathering where each may not only prove to himself his own, "but mark his neighbors faults and follies,"—where the incrustation of old habits may be broken up and allowed for new ideas, proving to each that the end of knowledge is not yet reached, nor the opportunity of learning lost—an annual gathering where the industry and skill of the State may meet and recite to all the years before, and the success or failure of its efforts to solve that portion of the great industrial problem embraced within the field of its labor. In theory each and all these several steps of progress might be considered as so many evidences of our progress in the primal art of arts. But practically, it is not true, for the reason that most of these evidences of success are the results of an accidental combination of circumstances—that is, most of the evidences are not the result of the practical application of known and well established principles of agricultural science, but too often the accidental result of a thoughtless combination of forces, thrown together without design, thus in effect, teaching nothing conclusively; consequently a repetition almost invariably proves a failure. Improvements in agriculture are no doubt being made; but the laws of nature, upon which all successes are based, are most of them too dimly seen to conduct to a successful repetition. Consequently we are, as agriculturists, constantly falling back from each seeming advance.

WISCONSIN AGRICULTURE.

ment, not, perhaps, completely, but partially, at every step, for the reason that we have but slight foothold upon those laws of nature upon which success depends. Yet all these successes and failures, as shown in the annual exhibitions of the Society, tend to teach them; but in such a qualified, questionable, and fragmentary manner, that by far the greater part is useless. Had the Society a Farm School, where the philosophy of practice and the science of schools might mingle and perfect each other—where all that is proved in practical labor, and all that is true in scholastic science, could be blended in one concrete mass, affording a substantial foundation for the more elevated up-building of the industrial labor of the State—a farm school within whose ample fields and halls the State Society might hold its annual Fairs, thus giving to each laborer an opportunity to prove or disprove the correctness of his theory or practice—where the practical labor of the State could compare the results of its toil with the more pretentious ones of the school—a point where each isolated fact could be concentrated, combined with others and made practical—where the progress of labor could be noted, the principles upon which it depends developed, and thus substantial advancement secured, and thus the school be as the Mistress of Labor and the Master of Science. The need of labor is too great to be profitably mocked with here a bone and there a crust—its wants too great to be satisfied with such fostering care as may be found in a *lean to* of some overshadowing edifice. The winds and tides no longer command commerce, because commerce concentrates *capital*, and a half million experiment is readily made, and commerce is finally eminently successful. But agriculture diffuses wealth, while affording to all other pursuits the means of concentration; thus labor not unfrequently appears as a petitioner for a moiety of that which its own munificence has bestowed.

The greatest wealth of the State consists, first, in the moral and political purity, and the intellectual culture of its inhabitants. Secondly, in the productive character of its industrial pursuits, and the fertility of its soil. Comparatively productive as our agricultural labor no doubt is, yet, in most cases, it is so

at the expense of the means of subsistence of the next or succeeding generations. Thus by our general want of thorough and sufficient agricultural knowledge, we are rapidly squandering the original munificent gift of the Great Benefactor. This knowledge has much of it to be created, and more to be concentrated and made effective.

The fostering care of State and National governments have made munificent provisions for general education; yet for the education which this State's great agricultural interest require, no provisions are made. For these reasons we respectfully ask your Excellency to recommend the Legislature to make suitable provisions for the founding of an Agricultural College, in connection with an ample Experimental Farm, and their endowment with sufficient means to secure their effective and practical operation, either by a grant of a portion of the swamp lands belonging to the State, or by memorial to Congress for a special grant of lands for that purpose.

The present time seems peculiarly appropriate for such a movement, especially for memorializing Congress, inasmuch as it will be in harmony with the action of many other of the Agricultural States, who are now urging similar claims upon their attention. An additional voice from the *Great Northwest* will deepen the tone and strengthen the effort, and undoubtedly eventuate in ultimate success.

And what is more reasonable or proper than that at least a little fraction of the wide and almost unlimited public domain of this and other States, should be assigned and devoted to a more thorough and systematic development of the great scientific principles and practical action on which every thing like eminent agricultural success must rest. The liberal donation to Railroad Companies, (which are but the servants and carriers of the tillers of the soil), would seem to indicate at least the equal propriety of making every needful provision for the fullest development of this great primary interest, on which not only Railroads, but Governments, and all subordinate interests essentially, constantly, and forever depend.

Without this Agricultural College and Experimental Farm,

five years will not elapse before some of our sons, who would be first in their great calling, will be crossing over to Michigan to her already promising institution, to avail themselves of that knowledge, which, for want of a proper foresight and enterprize, has not been secured and provided for them at home. Let us not, from our supineness now at the proper time, be thus dependent then.

The law of the last session of the Legislature, passed in conformity with a request in our last annual report, for the collection, on the part of the several town Assessors, of Agricultural and Mineral statistics, seems to have been but partially complied with, and consequently the report of the Secretary of State on that subject is necessarily incomplete and somewhat imperfect. Still, what there is of it is highly valuable, and shows conclusively how valuable a perfect work of the kind would be; showing at once, and annually, the exact agricultural, mineral, and business condition and production of each county in the State. It is almost as valuable information to the observant and intelligent citizen, as are the merchant's account books to him, in the way of explaining and telling him how his matters stand.

The law is of indispensable value, and with some slight amendments, which will be duly and seasonably presented by its friends, will undoubtedly remain a fixed feature upon our statute books.

As in our last year's report, we again call attention to the policy and necessity of some law for the protection and encouragement of sheep husbandry and wool growing, which would necessarily involve a law for the restricting and thinning out of dogs, which, (as is natural in new countries), have become a great nuisance and drawback upon our annual incomes and aggregate receipts from this important and natural source of prosperity. It is confidently believed that some judicious law might be enacted that would, in due time, abate the evil without much *growling*, and eventuate in substituting numerous flocks of fine woolled sheep, with their yearly golden fleeces and fat, savory mutton, in place of our present *barking cur-dog* population. Such an exchange is, in the opinion of the undersigned, devoutly to be wished and earnestly prayed for.

Hoping that your Excellency will have the kindness to submit such of our suggestions to the Legislature as may, in your judgment, be deemed proper.

We remain, very truly,

Your obedient servants,

In behalf of the Executive Committee, { D. J. POWERS,
DAVID WILLIAMS.

STATEMENT

OF THE FISCAL AFFAIRS OF THE WISCONSIN STATE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY,
FOR THE YEAR ENDING DEC. 31, 1857.

INCOME.

To balance on hand, December 31, 1857,	\$ 968 62
" of seed and outstanding premium	
fund not used, - - - -	379 80
To Standing Appropriation, - - -	3000 00
From Annual and Life Members, - -	1903 00
To nett Receipts of State Fair besides mem-	
ber's tickets, - - - -	2853 21
	<hr/> \$8804 63

EXPENDITURES.

By Premiums and cost of Diplomas awarded	
for 1857, - - - -	\$2701 11
By purchase of Seeds, Cuttings, &c., -	485 20
Salary of Secretary, - - - -	1000 00
By Office rent and Incidental Expenses,	262 18
By Express charges, \$38,71, Postage, \$55,71,	94 42
By Bill paid at State Fair, - - -	2383 09
By Miscellaneous bills for the year, -	1676 10
By Cash to balance, - - - -	502 53
	<hr/> \$8804 63

WISCONSIN AGRICULTURE.

Bills and vouchers for all the above items, are on file in this office, and open to examination.

GEORGE O. TIFFANY, *Secretary.*

STATE AGRICULTURAL ROOMS,
Madison, December 31, 1857.

TERMINATION.

THE STATE AGRICULTURAL ROOMS, MADISON, WISCONSIN,
ARE HEREBY TERMINATED.

1857.

TO THE STATE AGRICULTURAL ROOMS, MADISON, WISCONSIN,
FOR THE YEAR 1857.
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REPORT

ANNUAL MEETING

WISCONSIN

STATE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

1882

REPORT
OF THE
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF THE
WISCONSIN
STATE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

For the year 1858.

MADISON
ATWOOD & RUBLEE, PRINTERS.
1858.

WORLD
JOURNAL
OF
THE
FUTURE

REPORT.

TO HIS EXCELLENCY, ALEXANDER W. RANDALL,
Governor of the State of Wisconsin.

SIR:—In compliance with the requirements of law, and the established usages of the State Agricultural Society, the Executive Committee would respectfully report:

That during the past year, nothing extraordinary has occurred within the range of the duties of said Society; as hitherto its efforts have been mainly directed to the distribution of useful seeds and plants, together with such information as was available for their culture; to the offering of appropriate premiums for the most successful culture of the various leading crops; also premiums for the best essays and treatises on the leading subjects of Agriculture, Horticulture, Rural Architecture, &c. &c. But more particularly were the energies and resources of the Society devoted to the preparation for, and holding of the Annual Fair.

Among the seeds distributed by the Society during the past year, none other has been so prominent or important as that of the Chinese Sugar Cane (*Sorgho Saccharatum*).

The promising success of this cane, so far as tried, during the year of 1857, fully satisfied all who gave the subject attention, that its careful and intelligent culture would be found not only remunerative, but profitable, throughout most if not all of the settled portions of the State.

Therefore, for the purpose of promoting its more rapid dissemination and culture, by the agricultural masses of the State, the Society obtained a considerable quantity of the seed, from the regions south of us, where it had been more extensively cultivated and well ripened, and distributed it through the

agency of the members of the Society, the members of the Legislature, and such other opportunities as presented. Further, the Society offered liberal premiums for the best growths of the cane, as well as for the best processes of manufacture and production of molasses, syrup and sugar, therefrom.

The results of the foregoing efforts, so far as can be judged at this early day, have fully equalled the anticipations of all parties, and in fact exceeded them; and it is a well settled opinion on the part of the Committee, that the experiment of the culture and manufacture of the cane has been fairly and fully tried, by thousands of the farmers of the State, and, so far as heard from, with nearly uniform and satisfactory success. And not only has the fact of the practicability of its culture been well established, but, what is still more conclusive and encouraging, a large amount of molasses, syrup and some common sugar, has absolutely been made. In fact, good judges estimate the saving to the State the present year, on account of these productions, of over a hundred thousand dollars; no insignificant item in times like the present.

What is still further gratifying in the matter, is the fact that in all reasonably favorable cases, the seed of the cane ripened, during the past season, amply for all purposes of replanting; thus fully establishing the important fact, that it can and will usually ripen, except upon very unfavorable soil, or in unfavorable seasons.

The great and universal question first of all to be asked and answered in relation to it, "*Will it pay,*" is also pretty well settled, even by the imperfect experiments already tried. The bulk of them go to show, that an ordinarily good soil will as surely grow a good crop of it, as of Indian corn; and with but a trifle, if any more labor. And further, that a good ordinary crop will yield two hundred gallons of good syrup per acre, besides several tons of fodder and seed, from the surplus leaves and tops of the stalks.

The experience already had, also shows that, even with the imperfect machinery and information of the first experiments, the cane has been grown and the syrup manufactured, at an average expense of not over twenty-five cents per gallon; being a saving of at least one hundred per cent. of what a similar southern article would cost the merchants and the dealers of the country delivered in store; and nearly twice that saving to such consumers as produce it for their own use, and thereby save all intermediate profits.

If *Sorghum* has done this much for our people "in the green tree, what may we not expect in the dry?" Highly important results to our State, as well as to the whole North-West, are

confidently predicted for this new item of production, in the future, and that at no distant day.

In all probability there will be ten times the amount of it cultivated the present year, that was during the past. Judging from the entire success of many experiments of graining the syrup into tolerable brown sugar, no reasonable doubt seems to exist, as to its being generally done, as easily as the maple syrup, with a little more experience of cultivation, grinding and boiling, and with more suitable apparatus. That our people will soon be able to raise their entire sugar and molasses crop, and may be a surplus for exportation, seems by no means improbable. The supplying of the home demand merely, will prove a saving of some millions per annum to the State, of money kept at home and paid for home labor.

The seed of the Hungarian Grass (Millium), a forage plant that has been attracting considerable attention for the last two years, in Iowa and other prairie districts, was also extensively distributed over all parts of the State, last spring. What degree of favor or success it has met with, the Committee are not as yet very well informed; only a few reports having been received in relation to it. It is said to considerably resemble millet, except that it has more leaves, and makes much better forage. It is said to thrive exceedingly well upon the high and dry prairies, especially in dry seasons, when timothy would prove a failure. Its success is understood to be owing to its striking a deep root. The statements in relation to it, go to show that it matures in a very short period, and yields from four to five tons per acre of hay and seed,—largely of the latter; but it has to be annually sown. Another season will do much in the way of deciding its merits and adaptation to our wants.

The Committee also circulated a quantity of Sweet Potatoes (received as a present from a gentleman in Indiana) quite extensively among the careful cultivators, for experimental trial and cultivation, and had the satisfaction of seeing a fine show of well grown tubers, at the State Fair, as the result of the effort; clearly proving, (what was, to be sure, partially known before,) that they can be successfully cultivated in ample quantities, at least for the purposes of luxury and variety among our people.

The Committee have given the subject of improving the Seed Wheat of the State a good deal of attention, and have carefully investigated the often proposed plan of importing new seed from Canada. A very competent agent and practical farmer was sent by the Committee to the best wheat districts of Canada, in the autumn of 1857, (Hon. David Williams, of Walworth County,) to enquire into the matter, and report what seemed

proper to be done under the circumstances. After a careful examination of their various specimens of wheat, and a full inquiry in relation to the insect depredations, and liabilities, he came to the conclusion that importations should be made at least with great care, to avoid the introduction of new species of destructive insects, the liability of which seemed to him very great. A careful comparison of the best specimens brought from Canada, with the best from our own dry burr-oak districts, shows but little if any superiority in the imported article; pretty clearly establishing the incorrectness of the quite common notion, that our wheat degenerates from cultivation, and needs a frequent renewal from Canada or elsewhere, to sustain its quality.

The Committee are fully of the opinion, that if our farmers take more pains in sowing good clean seed upon dry and well cultivated soil, and harvest it before it shrinks and turns dark colored from over-ripeness and exposure to storms, that as handsome club wheat can be grown for an indefinite series of years as is at first sown,—that the complaint of deterioration is more from the faulty cultivation than from any lack in the soil.

The annual Cattle Show and Fair of the Society was held at Madison during the first week of October, and was, notwithstanding the rather inclement weather, largely attended by the sterling classes of the people, not only as exhibitors but as spectators. Some two thousand entries of animals, articles and products were made, embracing altogether probably a better show than was ever before made in our own, or any other State not older than ours. The show of horses, neat stock, sheep and swine, were all of a high order and good quality, and reflected much credit upon the enterprise and progressive spirit of our people.

On the other hand, the labor-saving machinery, both for agricultural and other purposes, was highly creditable to its inventors and manufacturers, and indicated a rapid progress in all the labor-saving arts of this wonderfully progressive age.

The products of the soil were in no way inferior to the other departments of the show, but proved conclusively that we had not only the climate and soil, but the cultivators, that could produce the most complete and ample results.

The fruit department particularly, notwithstanding the unfavorable season, was largely and splendidly represented, especially with the most sterling of all fruit, the apple, in great variety and profusion, and of as fair quality as any country can boast.

Several richly equipped and efficient appearing Military and Fire companies paraded upon the grounds during the

Fair, displaying superior tactics, and gaily enlivening the scene.

Altogether the occasion was one of extraordinary gratification and usefulness to all parties, and passed off with the utmost good feeling in all respects, evidencing anew to all observers, that such agricultural jubilees are a natural outgrowth of our age and people, and highly proper to be encouraged and fostered, as schools of usefulness for the great masses of the people.

The want of permanent and well fitted Fair Grounds for these occasions is sadly felt, and is a source of large expenditure and trouble annually in making the requisite provision, saying nothing of the fact, that, at best, temporary arrangements but poorly accommodate the interests and parties concerned. If some common central location could be agreed and settled upon, and fitted permanently for these purposes, it would greatly simplify, as well as diminish, the annual labors and expenditures of the society. Until such permanent fitting is had, our agricultural fairs will fall considerably short of what they ought to be.

The Executive Committee would express a wish that the law authorizing the collection of the annual statistics of the agricultural productions of the State, should be continued, and so amended, if need be, as to render its operation more certain and complete.

The collecting of such annual reliable information of the quantities of grain grown, of the various varieties; of the horses, the stock and animals; of the increase or decrease, advancing or retrograding, of the different interests, seems to them a matter of the first importance, not only to our own people, but to those looking this way from without the State for a market in which to buy or deal in our staple commercial products. When once fully understood by the officers whose duty it is to collect and embody such statistical facts, it would seem a simple duty to perform, and one that needs entail but little additional expense upon the people.

The great importance of the wool-growing interests to the State, and the commonly prevailing opinion that the business of sheep-keeping is to a considerable extent being abandoned throughout the State, on account of the ravages of dogs, seems to call for enquiry, and, if well founded, for judicious legislation, to arrest any retrograde movement of that kind.

In addition to whatever may be required upon the foregoing subjects in the way of legislation, the Executive Committee are of the opinion that few things could or would be more acceptable to the agricultural masses, than a large diminution in the amount of annual legislation and taxes. No sentiment or opinion

seems to be more indelibly engraven upon the public mind, than that there is a great opportunity for reform in these respects. May they not hope, under the general pressure of hard times, and the economy consequent thereon, to witness an improvement in this direction?

The copy for volumes eight and nine, for the years 1858 and '59, of the transactions of the Society, will be properly prepared for publication during the current year, and can be put to press if the Legislature deems it advisable to so order. The publication of these annual volumes of agricultural reports has become an established practice in most of the leading agricultural States, and, when judiciously gotten up, are undoubtedly an embodiment of much valuable information, that would, in no other way equally effective, be brought before the minds of the masses of the people.

The Executive Committee would recommend the publication of such a volume, embracing the two past years, and ask the requisite legislation therefor.

A statement of the fiscal affairs of the Society, showing its receipts and disbursements, will be found appended hereto; and full and complete vouchers will be found on file in this office for all the items of each account; all of which is respectfully submitted.

**STATEMENT of the FISCAL AFFAIRS of the WISCONSIN STATE
AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY, for the year of 1858.**

RECEIPTS.

To balance over from 1857	\$1,273 61
" State appropriation	3,000 00
" gross receipts from State Fair and life and annual memberships,	6,323 04
" amount from Madison subscription	1,199 25
	<hr/> \$11,795 90

EXPENDITURES.

By premiums paid for 1858, out of appropriation	\$2,641 00
" diplomas all in all out of appropriation	181 50
" " Executive Committee expenses	390 75
" " office expenses	147 10
" " express charges	25 50
" " postage	55 69
" " rent	300 00
" " salaries	1,000 00
" " fitting Fair Grounds, all in all	1,967 00
" " arrearages of 1857	347 23
" " miscellaneous expenses of the Fair and during the year	2,794 56
" " bills allowed and unpaid to December 10th	726 13
" balance of cash on hand,	1,339 44
	<hr/> \$11,795 90

In behalf of the Executive Committee,

D. J. POWERS, *Secretary.*

State Agricultural Rooms, }
Madison, January 1, 1859. }

STATEMENT OF THE LEGAL AFFAIRS OF THE WISCONSIN STATE
AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY, FOR THE YEAR OF 1887.

RECEIPTS.

To balance forward from 1886	\$1,238 01
By cash on hand	3,000 00
By cash received from the State	6,392 01
By cash received from members	1,180 10
By cash received from other sources	11,702 80

EXPENDITURES.

By premiums for 1887 out of the State	\$2,641 00
By premiums for 1887 out of the State	181 00
By cash received from the State	180 00
By cash received from the State	147 10
By cash received from the State	25 00
By cash received from the State	25 00
By cash received from the State	200 00
By cash received from the State	1,000 00
By cash received from the State	1,000 00
By cash received from the State	1,000 00
By cash received from the State	347 28
By cash received from the State	3,704 58
By cash received from the State	750 18
By cash received from the State	1,330 41
By cash received from the State	11,702 80

In behalf of the Executive Committee,
D. J. FLOWERS, Secretary.
State Agricultural Rooms,
Madison, January 1, 1888.

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Wis. State Agr. Soc. .AG74
Annual Rpt. 1856
Annual Rept. of the Exed. Comm
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